



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

October 4, 2004

News Release

ICE ARRESTS 24 IN OPERATION TARGETING CRIMINAL ALIENS, OTHER IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers arrested 24 illegal aliens here Wednesday night, many of them with criminal backgrounds including alien smuggling, burglary, weapons charges and murder.

The arrests took place in Overland Park and Olathe, Kan.

Of those arrested, 16 are from Mexico and eight from Honduras. Also arrested was a 29-year-old illegal alien from Honduras who had previously been deported from the United States and may now be wanted for murder in his native country.

This operation is part of an ongoing ICE effort to identify and arrest criminal aliens and other immigration violators, and remove them from the United States. After thoroughly reviewing immigration databases and files, ICE Detention and Removal officers developed a list of individuals who are removable from the United States based on their immigration status and crimes committed. Once the addresses were identified, a team of ICE officers, with the assistance of the Overland Park and Olathe Police Departments, set out to conduct the arrests Wednesday evening.

“We greatly appreciate the assistance provided by the local police departments in making these arrests,” said Debbie Achim, field office director for ICE Chicago Detention and Removal Operations. “Our goal is to identify and deport those unlawfully in the United States, and those who have committed crimes that compromise security in our communities. Wednesday’s arrests demonstrate that our officers are working diligently to fulfill this mission.”

Four of those arrested will be presented before the U.S. Attorney in Kansas for prosecution.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.